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(BIRCH)

WASHINGTON--SENATE REPUBLICAN WHIP THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF., AND SEN. THOMAS J. LODD, D-CONN., TODAY DENOUNCED THE ANTI-COMMUNIST JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AS "DANGEROUS." KUCHEL CALLED FOR A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

LODD, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTERNAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, AND KUCHEL MOVED IN THE SENATE IN SUCCESSION TO ATTACK THE SEMI-SECRET SOCIETY, HEADED BY ROBERT WELCH. THEY PARTICULARLY CITED WELCH'S ATTACKS ON FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

IN THE HOUSE, REP. HENRY S. REUSS, D-MIS., SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES HAD DECLINED TO INVESTIGATE THE SOCIETY ON THE GROUNDS IT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

REUSS, WHO REQUESTED SUCH AN INVESTIGATION, SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS E. WALTER, D-PA., TURNING DOWN THE IDEA. WALTER SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD RECEIVED MANY LETTERS OF COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SOCIETY, BUT NONE CONTAINED MATERIAL INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD OR SHOULD LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION.

WALTER SAID "IT IS NOT THE FUNCTION OF THIS COMMITTEE, OF COURSE, TO SERVE AS A SOUNDING BOARD--EITHER FOR AN ORGANIZATION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, OR FOR INDIVIDUALS AGAINST AN ORGANIZATION."

IN URGING A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE ORGANIZATION, KUCHEL ACCUSED WHICH "OF PLACING A SPANSTIC AND INCREDIBLE LABEL" FOR ACCUSING EISENHOWER OF BEING A "CARD-CARRYING COMMUNIST."

"GOOD GOD," THE CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN EXCLAIMED. "SHOULD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT LET THAT KIND OF SPLEEN BE POURED ON ONE WHO HAS GIVEN HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE CAUSE...OF FREEDOM?"